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DE RUEHMO #0839 2691443
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3019
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 0043

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 010839

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/26/2016
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SUBJECT: RUSSIA REMAINS OPPOSED TO SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION
ON BURMA

REF: STATE 155034

Classified By: Political M/C Alice G. Wells. Reasons: 1.4(B/D).

¶1. (C) We shared reftel points September 25 with Vladimir Safronkov, Chief of the UN Political Affairs Section in the MFA's IO Department, asking that Russia work with other Security Council members to form a consensus on the need for the Burmese regime to undertake democratic reforms. Safronkov stressed that Moscow does not consider the UN Security Council to be an appropriate place to discuss democratization in Burma. In Russia's view, the situation does not pose a threat to international peace and security.

¶2. (C) Safronkov said that Russia supported U/SYG Gambari's discussions with the Burmese regime, but would not favor a resolution on Burma. At the least, the Security Council should wait on the outcome of the next round of discussions before weighing whether any next steps were appropriate. If Gambari needed further credibility, Safronkov suggested, then he should meet with the President of the Security Council and interested members before engaging again with the Burmese leadership.
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